

**Claims**

What is claimed is:

1. An ultrasonic surgical instrument comprising:
  - a) an ultrasonic blade having a first segment and a second segment comprising and the first segment further comprising a first cross-sectional area greater than a second cross-sectional area.
2. An ultrasonic surgical instrument comprising:
  - a) a housing;
  - b) a tubular sheath having a proximal end joined to the housing, and a distal end;
  - c) an ultrasonic waveguide positioned within the tubular sheath and having an end effector extending distally of the distal end of the tubular sheath; the waveguide comprising a first cross-sectional area greater than a second cross-sectional area.
3. The ultrasonic surgical instrument of claim 2 further comprising a clamp arm pivotally mounted on the distal end of the tubular sheath for pivotal movement with respect to the end effector for clamping tissue between the clamp arm and end effector.